

## WIPP Quick Facts (As of 2-21-07)

**5,483**  
Shipments received since opening

**45,781**  
Cubic meters of waste disposed

**87,134**  
Containers disposed in the underground

## Southeast New Mexico Legislators hosted the annual WIPP Legislative Update

WIPP would like to thank the legislators from southeast New Mexico who each year host their colleagues at the annual WIPP Legislative Update.

- Senator Carroll Leavell
- Senator Gay Kernan
- Senator Vernon Asbill
- Representative John Heaton
- Representative Donald Bratton
- Representative William Gray
- Representative Shirley Tyler

## Annual Legislative Update Focuses on WIPP

An early-morning start time didn't keep officials and legislators from attending WIPP's annual legislative update. The breakfast meeting attracted a Who's Who in New Mexico leadership. Hosted by state legislators from southeast New Mexico, the event's guests included New Mexico Lt. Governor Diane Denish, Attorney General Gary King, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry, and legislators from around the state.



CBFO Manager Dave Moody, Lt. Governor Diane Denish and CBFO Deputy Manager Lloyd Piper at the WIPP Legislative Update.

"Only legislators from southeast New Mexico would put on a breakfast this early," joked Denish who is from Hobbs.

The event, which was emceed by Sen. Carroll Leavell, southeast New Mexico's senior senator, began at 6:30 a.m. to allow legislators to get an update on WIPP before heading to scheduled committee meetings and other legislative business.

Progress over the last year and the start of remote-handled transuranic (RH-TRU) waste operations took center stage as speakers took to the podium.

"This is a celebration," said Secretary Curry. "A celebration of what has been accomplished with the RH permit process. When I started this job, it was apparent to me that the RH permit was the most important thing."

He asked NMED staff members to stand and introduced each of them by name so they could be recognized, including Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla and Hazardous Waste Bureau Chief James Bearzi.



Juan Reyes, Director of the Radiation Protection Division of the Environmental Protection Agency with WTS General Manager Dick Raaz.



NMED Secretary Ron Curry.



Representatives William Gray and Donald Bratton.



Senator Carroll Leavell.

State Representative John Heaton followed with brief remarks and an introduction of CBFO Manager Dave Moody. Moody's overview touched on some of the year 2006's major accomplishments, such as recertification of WIPP by the Environmental Protection Agency, the receipt of the 5,000th shipment and the approval of the RH permit modification. He also talked about the long road that led to the first receipt of RH waste at WIPP.



Representative John Heaton, WTS Deputy General Manager Farok Sharif, CBFO Manager Dave Moody and NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau Chief James Bearzi.

Moody also addressed CBFO's top priorities for 2007. At the top of the list was continued focus on safety and compliance. He said WIPP plans include a ramp-up of RH-TRU waste shipments to six per week, maintaining around 21 shipments per week of contact-handled waste, increased operational efficiencies and improvements to WIPP's regulatory framework.

This year's legislative session will last for 60 days, ending on March 17.

### Public scoping meetings for GNEP announced

DOE has announced its intent to prepare a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and to conduct related public scoping meetings to discuss issues and receive comments on the scope of the PEIS.

DOE is evaluating an integrated recycling capability consisting of two facilities:

- ⌘ A Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center, capable of separating the usable components contained in light water spent fuel from the waste products
- ⌘ An Advanced Burner Reactor, capable of consuming those usable components from the spent fuel while generating electricity

As part of GNEP, DOE also proposes to establish an advanced fuel cycle research facility at a national laboratory to serve fuels research needs for the next 50 years.

Both Carlsbad and Hobbs will host public scoping meetings:

## INL Breaks Shipment Record

Since WIPP disposal operations began in 1999, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site had held the lead for shipping the most TRU waste to WIPP for disposal. Cleanup was completed at RFETS last year with the final 2,045th shipment sent to WIPP in April 2005.

On February 19, the 2,046th shipment from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) arrived at WIPP, making INL the top TRU waste shipping site.



**Top Five:** The sites with the most shipments to WIPP since opening in 1999 are Idaho National Laboratory, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, the Savannah River Site, Hanford and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

"Since INL has more than 50 percent of the total TRU waste inventory, this accomplishment underscores DOE's commitment to cleaning up defense-related TRU waste," says Casey Gadbury, who manages transportation for the CBFO. "Safely getting the waste from the sites to WIPP is the key."

A year ago and after a concerted effort to focus transportation resources on the Idaho site, WIPP and INL achieved a major milestone by removing 6,000 cubic meters of waste from the site. The focus on shipments out of Idaho has continued, reaching as many as 30 shipments from INL to WIPP in a single week back in February 2005.

INL first began shipping TRU waste to WIPP in April 1999.



**Monday, February 26, 2007**  
Lea County Event Center in Hobbs  
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 27, 2007**  
Pecos River Village Conference  
Center in Carlsbad  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Each public meeting will include a brief presentation about the GNEP program, supported by an informal poster session by technical staff, and then an opportunity for oral public comments.

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### **Disposal operations transition to Panel 4**

Disposal of contact-handled (CH) TRU waste has now transitioned to Panel 4. CH-TRU is being disposed in Room 7, while disposal operations for remote-handled (RH) TRU waste have been underway in Panel 4, Room 6 since January. Room 6 will eventually be the first disposal room at WIPP to have both RH- and CH-TRU waste.

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### **President of the American Nuclear Society to Speak in Carlsbad**

Dr. Harold McFarlane, President of the American Nuclear Society, will be speaking in Carlsbad, on Wednesday, March 21 at the Stevens Inn.

A reception starting at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. are planned for his visit followed by a presentation on the topic of nuclear waste and the importance of community support.

Dr. McFarlane is also the Idaho National Laboratory Associate Laboratory Director, Nuclear Programs Director, Space Nuclear Systems and Technology Division in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

The visit and presentation are sponsored by the Local Chapter of the American Nuclear Society. The presentation is free and open to the public, but the dinner requires a reservation and payment. The cost of dinner is \$20.00.

Make dinner reservations no later than March 14 by contacting either Dr. Hung Chiou at 234-8225, [chiouh@wipp.ws](mailto:chiouh@wipp.ws) or Ms. Sheila Lott at 628-1372, [slott@lanl.gov](mailto:slott@lanl.gov).

For more information, contact Candice Jierree at (505) 234-8325.

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## **Ice as Art**



Photo by Mak Walker (WTS)

The weather in Carlsbad has been unusually cold and wet this winter. WTS employee Mak Walker recently took this photo outside the Skeen-Whitlock Building. Fortunately, temperatures have been rising into the 70s this week.

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## **WIPPnet undergoing certification and accreditation**

Submitted by Meg Milligan (CBFO)

The WIPPnet is undergoing a process known as certification and accreditation (C&A), which is mandated by the Federal Information Systems Management Act (FISMA) of 2002 and reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). WIPP is one of 17 sites that will undergo the C&A in the coming months.

We spent a week in January in DC with a team from the Mission Information Protection Program (MIPP) learning about all the C&A requirements. This includes a complete inventory of all information technology (IT) on site (if it's got a chip, we need to know about it), all the programs and systems operating on the network or having input to the network, and all the people who are associated with them.

We've met with most of the IT-related staff supporting the systems that make up the core of the C&A process, and we've laid out the requirements and expectations. One of the results will be more centralized control of all IT procurement. If a computer is purchased with funds from operations, it's still considered IT and must be reported and meet the basic site equipment standards.

The core team is led by Meg Milligan, CBFO Chief Information Officer and Information Systems Security Manager; John Angelis, Chief Information Officer for WTS; Brandon Stormont, the Information Systems Security Officer; and Cecil Thomas, the Project Security Officer for the WIPP Records Archive. An Intranet site has been set up with necessary forms for projects to fill out. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of TRU TeamWorks. We can do this with everyone's support and cooperation.

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### Weather Watchers Needed

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) needs you! Everyone can participate. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn about the power and beauty of our natural world.

A training session is scheduled for Carlsbad, N.M. on Monday, February 26, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Eddy County Cooperative Extension Service Office (1304 W. Stevens St.).

For more information on the program, feel free to contact the New Mexico CoCoRaHS Coordinator at [cocorahs@weather.nmsu.edu](mailto:cocorahs@weather.nmsu.edu) or by calling (505) 887-6595.

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### Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to [TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).

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## Jierree and Kirkes certify as safety trained supervisors

Two WTS employees – Candice Jierree and Justin Kirkes – have recently completed the requirements for national certification as Safety Trained Supervisors (STS).

The Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists (CCHST) awards this certification to individuals who meet rigorous experience and education requirements, including passing a comprehensive written examination. The written examination covers information supervisors must have to safely carry out their supervisory responsibilities. Some of the subjects covered include hazard recognition and analysis, personal protective equipment, regulatory compliance and incident investigation.

The STS certification is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards. Those who earn the STS certification are recognized as having met demanding, peer-established competency requirements in supervision.

Since the STS certification was introduced in 1995 over 1,617 individuals have been certified as Safety Trained Supervisors. Of those, 70% were employed by Washington Group International or one of its subsidiaries. For information on the STS certification process contact the WTS Safety and Health Department.

**Submitted by Craig Herndon (WTS)**

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Candice Jierree (WTS) is presented with a watch by WTS Safety Manager Craig Herndon.



Justin Kirkes (WTS) was presented with a watch by Tom Ferguson (left) and Herndon (right).

## Tanner ASNT certified

Please join us in congratulating Steve Tanner (WTS) on successfully passing the American Society of Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) examination for Level III certification in Magnetic Particle Testing (MT).

The ASNT is the world's largest technical society for nondestructive testing (NDT) professionals. NDT is defined as comprising those test methods used to examine an object, material or system without impairing its future usefulness.

To take this examination, Tanner had to submit an extensive application for approval by ASNT. The examination was two hours in length, having 90 questions in the areas of:

- Principles/theory
- Equipment/materials
- Technique/calibrations
- Interpretation/evaluation
- Procedures
- Safety and health

Tanner joins approximately 4,127 others (worldwide) as an ASNT certified Level III in MT.

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## February Birthday Wishes!

**Jeff Winkel (WTS)**  
February 2

**Deanne Rodriguez (WTS)**  
February 4

**Shane Thompson (WTS)**  
February 4

**Bob Nieman (WTS)**  
February 7

**Ashok Kadakia (WTS)**  
February 8

**Mak Walker (WTS)**  
February 11

**Alisa Cass (WTS)**  
February 18

**Joe Harvill (WTS)**  
February 19

**Pat Charlet (Triumph)**  
February 20

**Veronica Waldram (LANL)**  
February 26

**Meg Milligan (CBFO)**  
February 27

## WIPP BPA students take honors

We already knew they were outstanding examples of the upcoming generation, but now they've got the hardware to prove it. Nicole Munoz and Lee Bartock, both Business Professionals of America (BPA) students at WIPP, recently received some high honors.



Nicole Munoz, Youth of the Year for the Carlsbad Chapter of the Boys and Girls Club of America and for the state of New Mexico.

Since 1997, Munoz has been volunteering her time at the Boys and Girls Club where she has been the Diamond Eagle Keystone president for two years, coached volleyball for two years and cheerleading for three years. She spends most of her free time tutoring and enjoying the company at the Boys and Girls Club.

Munoz works for Keith Nelson in WTS Project Management.

Bartock placed second in the Advanced Job Interview Skills competition at the BPA state convention in February. In the competition, she demonstrated exceptional skills in preparing a portfolio, resumé and cover letter. The honor makes Bartock eligible to compete in the national competition in New York in March.

Bartock works for Susan Scott in WTS Communication.



Job interview? No problem. Lee Bartock excelled at the state BPA convention in the Advanced Job Interview Skills competition.

Congratulations to both on their outstanding achievements!

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The U.S. Department of Energy  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or suggestions to: [TRU\\_TeamWorks](mailto:TRU_TeamWorks)

